

The Pledger House
Mannington Township, Salem County, New Jersey

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PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA
District of New Jersey

Historic American Buildings Survey
Seymour Williams, A.I.A., District Officer
133 Central Avenue, Rahway, New Jersey

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The Pledger House
Mannington Township, Salem County, New Jersey

Owner: Mr. John B. Campbell

Date of Erection: 1727

Architect:

Builder: John Pledger, Jr.

Present Condition: Good

Number of Stories: Two and one-half

Materials of Construction: Foundation - brick

Exterior walls - brick,
Flemish bond

Interior walls - plaster

Inside brick chimneys

Roof - gambrel on the main
section; pitch on the wing

Historical Data:

The father of the builder, John Pledger, Sr., is supposed to have come to Salem County on the ship "Jonathan and Mary" in March, 1675 about seven months before the proprietor John Fenwick landed. The first John Pledger purchased three thousand acres from Fenwick. This tract was known as "Netherland Farm". The builder of the house was born in 1680 and erected the house in 1727. Originally, it is said that the house had a double roof. After the second Pledger's

death, the house became the property of his daughter Martha Weatherby. She sold it to Joseph Pledger who in 1769 sold to Robert Pledger, a grandnephew of the builder.

During the Revolution the house was occupied by Robert Johnson and his family. They were raided by a company of the Queen's Ranges in 1778 and were unable to escape. Taken prisoners they were confined to the cellar; however, the family managed to escape from their captors and found refuge with their neighbor Benjamin Smith. Robert Gibbon Johnson, a son of Robert mentioned above, was born in this house; he was the first chronicler of Fenwick's Colony (see NJ-219).

After the Johnsons the property came into the possession of the Hubbells, then of Edward Bassett, and at present of John B. Campbell. It is on the grounds of the Mannington Mills.

Bibliography:

Sickler, J. S. The Old Houses of Salem County Salem, Sunbeam Publishing Company, 1924

"Colonial Roof-Trees" and "Candle Ends"
Salem, Salem County Historical Society, 1934

Valter C. Ritt

Supervising Historian

Approved:

Seymour Williams

SEYMOUR WILLIAMS, A.I.A.
District Officer

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7/28/37

A D D E N D U M

A search of records at Salem and Trenton gives added proof to our original sketch. At Trenton there is a will of John Pledger of Salem dated December 30, 1743 in which he leaves his dwelling house and plantation, two hundred and sixteen acres, where he was then living to Edmund Weatherby and Martha his wife. The deed transferring the property from Joseph Pledger to Robert Johnson on July 27, 1769 shows that Edmund Weatherby died first and that the property came into the possession of his wife; she died intestate and left it to Joseph Pledger, who was a grandson of John and the nephew of Martha. Robert Johnson in his will of May 13, 1791 bequeathed the property to his son Robert Gibbon Johnson. He left it in 1850 to his daughter Anna G. Hubbell and his granddaughter Anna L. Hubble; they sold ten years later, 1860, to Elisha Bassett. By will of 1890 he left it to his daughter Rebecca Carpenter. Her husband gave title by deed in 1916 to Benjamin A. Carpenter who sold in 1924 to the present owner.

Bibliography:

A search of Salem County court records
by Mary N. Mifflin

A search of records in the Secretary of
State's Office by Robert M. Falcey,
Mercer County Office

Walter E. Rust
Supervising Historian